

Submitted: June 15, 2017
Approved: June 15, 2017

**MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING NO. 5-2017
Thursday, May 18, 2017**

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened
in the Blue Crab Conference Room on
May 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Rob Achtmeyer, Chair
Emily Correll
Matthew Goguen
Anita Neal Powell
Stefanie Tincher

Present: Sheila Bashiri, Preservation Planner
Cynthia Walters, Deputy City Attorney

I. AGENDA REVIEW WORKSESSION (Blue Crab Conference Room)

Chair Achtmeyer introduced commissioners and staff and noted that the agenda review worksession included a discussion with a prospective member of the Commission. He also announced the all-day seminar related to replacement materials sponsored by the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHCD), to be held at Rockville City Hall on June 10.

II. COMMITTEE / ORGANIZATION REPORTS (Mayor and Council Chamber)

- A. Peerless Rockville – Nancy Pickard, Executive Director, reported the success of the Emancipation to Integration series, with over 80 attendees at the most recent event. She also reported a successful recent event co-sponsored with the County Bar Association. She also noted the upcoming June 8 Annual Meeting at Glenview Mansion, which would include a presentation and tour of the Glenview Mansion gardens given by City Horticulturist Rob Orndorff. Because May is Preservation Month, she invited Commissioners to attend the Mayor and Council proclamation on May 22.
- B. Lincoln Park Historical Foundation – Ms. Neal Powell stated that she presented information about the foundation to the Montgomery County Council on May 16. She also announced that the foundation will sponsor a parade in Lincoln Park on June 17, celebrating fathers and places of significance in the neighborhood. On Saturday, June 24, the foundation will sponsor a bus tour of places of African American history in Rockville, while on Sunday June 25, the foundation will sponsor a walking tour of African American sites in Downtown

Rockville. The foundation is developing information on preserving sites for a future presentation.

- C. Public Comments/Open Forum – No members of the public spoke.
- D. HDC and Staff Comments – Chair Achtmeyer stated his support for Preservation Month and acknowledged the work of Peerless Rockville. He also noted that he was glad to see property owners participate in the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program. Commissioner Correll reported that she attended the County Council proclamation for Historic Preservation Month and complimented Commissioner Neal Powell on her presentation. Commissioner Goguen praised the County Council proclamation as well as the diversity of Rockville, encouraging all to participate in the life of the City.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 20, 2017

B. MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT APPLICATIONS:

TAX CREDIT HDC2017-00836

Applicant: Jacob P. Lenihan

Address: 309 Potomac Street

Request: For preparation and painting of the exterior of the Charles Brewer House

TAX CREDIT HDC2017-00837

Applicant: John J. and Deborah D. Beins

Address: 8 Camden Ct

Request: For repair of the porch, windows, shutters and deteriorated wood, and painting of the exterior of the Wootton's Mill Miller's House

TAX CREDIT HDC2017-00840

Applicant: Adamswood, LLC

Address: 109 North Adams Street

Request: For repair of windows, replacement of a transom and painting of the exterior of the Darby House

TAX CREDIT HDC2017-00844

Applicant: Robert and Lucy Elliott

Address: 215 Autumn Wind Way

Request: For repair of the slate roof, copper roof and flashing, and painting of the shutters, doors and door frames at the Rose Hill Mansion

TAX CREDIT HDC2017-00845

Applicant: Erin Mahony and John Barker

Address: 405 West Montgomery Avenue

Request: For roof, chimney and window repairs, installation of storm windows and sill plate at the McDonald-Gilchrist House

TAX CREDIT HDC2017-00846

Applicant: Robert C. Drummond and Lori A. Miller

Address: 229 West Montgomery Avenue

Request: For roof replacement and repair, and gutter repair at Miss Lucy Simpson's/The Rockville Institute

Commissioner Tincher moved, seconded by Commissioner Correll, to remove the April 20, 2017 minutes from the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Tincher moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal Powell, to approve the revised consent agenda. The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Goguen opposed. Commissioner Goguen noted a correction to the minutes. Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal Powell, to approve the minutes as revised. The motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Tincher abstaining.

IV. CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

- A. Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00841, Jill Timmons and Steve Evans** – to add landscaping and replace a walkway at 109 North Adams Street.

Ms. Bashiri presented the staff report and recommendation, which was for approval.

Lena Palmer, landscape designer and Jill Timmons, applicant and property owner, explained the improvement project and answered questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Goguen, to approve Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00841, having been found to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standard's No. 9. The motion passed 5-0.

- B. Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00852, Larissa Young** – for replacement of a basement with cellar doors at 115 West Montgomery Avenue.

Ms. Bashiri presented the staff report and recommendation, which was for approval.

Craig Moloney, architect and Larissa Young, applicant and property owner, explained the project, and answered questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Tincher moved, seconded by Commissioner Correll, to approve Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00852. The motion passed 5-0.

V. EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

- A. HDC2017-00850, Mayor and Council of Rockville** – for an Evaluation of Significance for the purpose of demolition of the dwelling at 313 1/2 Frederick Avenue

Ms. Bashiri presented the staff report, which recommended against finding that the structure met any of the criteria for historic designation.

Commissioner Neal Powell stated that her great grandparents were the first residents of the house.

Chair Achtmeyer asked whether the City would be interested in donating the house to Habitat for Humanity or a similar organization. Dianne Fasolina of the Recreation and Parks Department stated that she had reached out to Habitat regarding donation of some elements of the house, but the response was that they did not have the resources to take those items from the property. In response to a questions from Commission Tincher, Ms. Fasolina

Anita Summerour, representing the Lincoln Park Civic Association, spoke in favor of demolition of the property as the members were unaware of any historic significance associated with the property. She also spoke in support of expanded parking at the Lincoln Park Community Center.

Commissioner Neal Powell moved, seconded by Commissioner Tincher, to find that the property does not meet any of the criteria for historic designation. The motion passed 5-0.

VI. DISCUSSION

- A. Update of Draft Historic Preservation Text Amendment** – Jim Wasilak arrived at the meeting and noted that the text amendment would be coming to the Mayor and Council on August 2 for a discussion and potential authorization to file, and that the HDC would then consider it at a subsequent meeting for recommendation, likely September.
- B. New Business** – Chair Achtmeyer discussed the potential for an opening statement that would be read at the beginning of each meeting, outlining the qualifications of the members and staff. Ms. Bashiri noted that the proposed statement follows that of the City of Gaithersburg, with necessary changes to reflect Rockville. Chair Achtmeyer read the statement, as follows:

“This Commission is empowered to meet and act under Article XIV of the City Code of Rockville. The technical qualifications of the staff of this Commission and the members of the Commission are on file with the City of Rockville, are available on request to any applicant, and are hereby made a part of the legal record of each and every application heard today. Each application heard today is considered on its own merits and is not to be considered as establishing a precedent for any other application.”

Commission Goguen suggested adding the names of the documents that are referred to in order to make decisions, and that they are available on the City’s web site.

Chair Achtmeyer suggested that the members send any edits to Ms. Bashiri so that a revised version could be discussed at the June meeting. Ms. Bashiri noted that the Rules of Procedure should be changed to reflect the preamble. Chair Achtmeyer also noted that the Agenda Review Meeting that precedes the regular meeting is open to the public, although it is held in a different room than the regular meeting.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Achtmeyer adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.